

# REQUIREMENTS FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K - 12 CERTIFICATE

## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE MUST BE MET. FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE. PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 15-534.03, EACH EDUCATOR MUST NOTIFY THE CERTIFICATION DEPARTMENT OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS WITHIN 30 DAYS. ALL DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING TRANSCRIPTS, BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED. REQUIREMENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE FULLY REFERENCED IN THE ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

### ➤ PROVISIONAL VISUALLY IMPAIRED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE

*The Provisional certificate is valid for 2 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 2 years.*

Requirements for the Provisional Visually Impaired Special Education Certificate are:

1. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
  2. Option A, B, or C:
    - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in visual impairment from an accredited institution.
    - B. Forty-five (45) semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution including 21 semester hours of special education courses for the visually impaired and 8 semester hours of practicum.
      - Special Education courses shall include: 1. Survey of exceptional students; 2. Teaching methodologies for students with visual impairment; 3. Foundations of instruction of students with visual impairment; 4. Diagnostic and assessment procedures for the visually impaired; and 5. Electives in visually impaired (if needed).
      - **Two (2) years** of verified full-time teaching experience in the area of visually impaired in grades Prekindergarten-12 may be substituted for the 8 semester hours of practicum. (Please submit a letter on official letterhead from the District Superintendent or Personnel Director to verify teaching experience.)
    - C. A valid Visually Impaired Special Education Certificate from another state.
  3. A passing score on the elementary professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment.
  4. A passing score on the visually impaired special education portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment.
  5. Demonstration of competency in Braille through one of the following: 1. A passing score on the original version of the National Library of Congress certification exam. 2. A valid certificate for a literary Braille transcriber issued by the National Library of Congress. 3. A passing score on a Braille exam administered by another state. 4. A passing score on the Braille exam developed and administered by the University of Arizona. Individuals who take this test and are not students at the University of Arizona may be assessed a fee.
  6. Verification of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training. **Please see SEI requirements.** Note: Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement. The requirements for a Provisional SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed one year for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other applicable certification requirements.
  7. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (plastic) issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (602) 223-2279.
- NOTE:** If you otherwise qualify for the certificate but are deficient in Arizona and/or U.S. Constitution you have 3 years under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill the requirement, except that if you are teaching an academic course on History, Government, Social Studies, Citizenship, Law, or Civics, you have 1 year to fulfill the requirement(s).
8. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).
  9. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

### ➤ STANDARD VISUALLY IMPAIRED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE

*The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and may be renewed.*

Requirements for the Standard Visually Impaired Special Education Certificate are:

1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Visually Impaired Special Education Certificate for **2 years**.
2. A passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA). Currently, the assessment has not been developed. **Two (2) years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the provisional certificate may be used to convert the Provisional Certificate to a Standard Certificate. (Please submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying **2 years** of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the provisional certificate being converted.)
3. Verification of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training to qualify for a Provisional or Full SEI endorsement. **Please see SEI requirements.** Note: Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement.
4. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (plastic) issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (602) 223-2279.